II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi and related papers.

III. Report and Account 1996-97 of the Central Govt. employees welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTARAYA): I lay on the Table:—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) Forty-Fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of india thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-203/98].

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i)(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

(ii)(a) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with the Auditors, Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

Memorandums of Understanding (1998-99) between Govt. of India (Ministry of Steel) and Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd. and MSTC Ltd.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-201/98].

SHRI RAMESH BAIS: Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited for the year 1998-99. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-204/98].

(ii) Memorandum of Understading between the Government of India (Ministry of Steel) and MSTC Limited for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-205/98].

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Suicide Committed by Farmers in Many States

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे (महाराष्ट्र): थैंक्यू सर, सर मैं आपके माध्यम से अपने इस विशेष उल्लेख के जरिए सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी। मैं आपका ध्यान विदर्भ, मराठवाड़ा और पश्चिमी महाराष्ट्र के उन लाखों किसान परिवारों की ओर दिलाना चाहती हूं जोकि पिछले वर्ष इन क्षेत्रों में हुए ओलावृष्टि और अन-सीजनल वर्षा के कारण पूरी तरह से बर्बाद हो चुकी है।

सभापति जी, पिछले वर्ष जून से अगस्त तक विदर्भ, मराठवाड़ा, धुलिया और सोलापुर की लगभग 4 लाख 35 हजार हैक्टेयर जमीन पर लगी फसल इस ओलावृष्टि और अन-सीजनल वर्षा के कारण पूरी तरह से प्रभावित हुई। नवम्बर, दिसम्बर में एक बार पुन: इस ओलावृष्टि और अन सीजनल वर्षा ने कॉटन, सोयाबीन, सनफ्लावर, चना और गेहूं की फसल लगभगा 4 लाख 60 हजार हैक्टेयर जमीन पर लगी फसल को तहस-नहस कर दिया और हमारा किसान बुरी तरह से प्रभावित हो चुका है। विदर्भ के 90 प्रतिशत और नागपुर के लगभग 6,500 गांव पुरी तरह से प्रभावित हुए हैं। प्राइवेट मनीलेण्डर्स के लिए हुए कर्ज और उस कर्जे पर दिन-प्रति-दिन बढ़ता ब्याज न चुकाने के कारण स्थिति इतनी भंयकर और इतनी भयावह हो गई है कि किसान आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर हो गए हैं।

सभापति जी, राज्य सरकार भले ही इन आत्म-हत्याओं के लिए अन्य कारण देकर राज्य की जनता को गुमराह करे, परन्तु सच्चाई यह है कि विदर्भ के क्षेत्र में यवतमाल जिले के डार्दी गांव के किसान श्यामा लक्ष्मण खण्डारे ने अपनी मृत्यु से पूर्व दिए गए बयान में मजिस्ट्रेट के सामने कहा कि मैं अपनी फसल पूर्ण रूप से बर्बाद हो जाने के कारण आत्म हत्या करने के लिए मजबूर हो गया हूं।

खंडारे कोई अकेला किसान नहीं था जिसने आत्महत्या की है बल्कि विदर्भ के पूरे क्षेत्र में आत्महत्या करने वाला वह 23वां किसान था।

सभापति जी, इस क्षेत्र के अनेक भागों में फलों को भी भारी नुकसान पहुंचा है जैसे संतरा, अंगूर तथा आम जिनका हम निर्यात करते रहे हैं ये सारी फसलें नष्ट हो चुकी हैं। ऐसे संकट के समय में केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार को वहां के किसानों को दिल खोलकर मदद करनी चाहिए। उनके घावों पर मरहम लगाने के बजाए, नमक छिड़कने का काम किया जा रहा है। महाराष्ट्र सरकार का यह दावा है कि प्रदेश के प्रभावित इलाकों में 112 करोड़ रुपए की राशि पहुंचाई गई है। मुझे विदर्भ के कई किसानों और विशेषकर नागपुर के किसानों ने स्वयं बताया है कि उनकी फसल पुरी तरह से नष्ट हो जाने के बावजूद भी जहां प्रति हैक्टर पांच हजार रूपए का नुकसान हुआ है वहां उनको सहायता के नाम पर और मुआवजे के रूप में 400-800 या 1,000 रुपए तक राशि दी गई है।

महोदय, क्या आप नहीं समझते हैं कि यह उनके घावों पर नमक छिड़कने का काम किया जा रहा है। बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जो किसान देश के लाखों लोगों के लिए अनाज उगाता है वह अपने संकट के समय में दर-दर की ठोंकरें खा रहा है। सरकारी सहायता के नाम पर भीख लेने मात्र रह गया है। महोदय, मैं आपके और सदन के माध्यम से मांग करती हूं कि केन्द्र सरकार वहां तुरन्त अपनी एक टीम भेजे जो वास्तविकता का पता लगाकर किसानों को अविलम्ब समुचित सहायता दे और राष्ट्रीय विपदाकोष एवं अन्य श्रोतों से महाराष्ट्र को उपयुक्त सहायता तत्काल पहुंचाई जाए ताकि प्रभावित किसानों को राहत राशि शीघ्र आबंटित हो सके अन्यथा किसान ऋण-चक्र में फसं गए हैं।

इस तरह की भयावह और शर्मनाक घटनाएं आगे न घटें।

इसके साथ ही मैं एक और मांग करती हूं कि इस वर्ष किसानों से किसी भी प्रकार के कर्ज अथवा ऋणों की वसूली न की जाए तथा उन्हें सरकार अच्छे बीज बिना कोई मूल्य लिए उपलब्ध कराए तथा अच्छी खाद भी उपलब्ध कराए और उन्हें सूदखोरों के चंगुल से बचाए। इसके साथ-साथ प्रदेश के किसानों की फसलों का सम्पूर्ण बीमा करने का प्रावधान केन्द्र तथा प्रदेश की सरकारों को करना चाहिए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करती हूं। आपने जो समय दिया उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत ध धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM KAPSE: Sir, I am on a point of order...

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: क्या प्वाइन्ट ऑफ आर्डर है? ...**(व्यवधान)**....

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Maharashtra): I entirely agree with Miss Saroj Khaparde's Special Mention. But she has mentioned two things which are unnecessary. She has commented on the behaviour of the State Government of Maharashtra. I think that the Government cannot reply. Whatever they have provided for the farmers, anybody can take them away...

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not a point of order...(*Interruptions*). This cannot be a point of order on my Special Mention. This is too much...(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ram Kapse, please sit down. Now, Dr. Jickhkar.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR (MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Saroj Khapardeji has pointed out the plight of the farmers which has led to their committing suicides. Sir, on 28th of May, a written reply was given to this House by the hon. Agriculture Minister in which some facts were mentioned. Sir, the cases of suicides in Maharashtra have gone up to 51, and out of 51, 32 suicides have taken place in the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra itself. And whereas farmers are committing suicides because of the failure of crops and the recovery procedures going on behalf of banks and finacial institutions... the State Government is busy in conducting investigations to see whether the suicides have direct linkages with crop losses or indebtedness. My hon. friend Prof. Ram Kapse just now made a point of order regarding this. But this is the information which has been given by the Government of Maharashtra and it has become the property of the House.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: ...(*Interruptions*)... The criticism about Maharashtra Government was unwarranted. That is my point.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Respected Sir, the criticism ...(*Interruptions*)...

MISS SAJOR KHAPARDE: So many farmers have died. This is not fair ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the criticism is not unwarranted because the Maharashtra Government has said that we are not investigating whether there is a direct linkage with crop/lossess/indebtedness and out of 51, they have said that they have established this linkage in 12 cases. Therefore, this criticism. Therefore, this is very much under the purview of the Government of India and we request the Government of India to intervene. The experts are saying that the change in the weather has been the result of El Nino effect and our scientists and meteorologists have not come to the rescue of the farmers in these areas. They have not forewarned them as to what effect this El Nino phenomenon will have in the various parts of the country, particularly Maharashtra. Now, Sir, we are told that another very bad effect is going to come and that is the cyclical effect which follows after El Nino effect and that effect is known as La Nino. I am afraid that if 51 cases of suicide have taken place in Maharashtra becuase of El Nino, it is La Nino which they say is going to be the worst affecting. It will lead to 150 suicides. So I want to forewarn the Government of India, through you, Sir, that some precautionary measures must be taken and farmers must be informed as to what is going to happen, what weather changes are likely to take place because all over the world most scientists are taking precautions about La Nino. They are warning the farmers which crop they must take, which crop they must not take, where there are going to be floods. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is here and Sir, they are warning their farmers as to what should the cropping pattern be, which areas will be flooded, whether there will be fire. Sir, this La Nino effect which is coming is going to play havoc. So, kindly advise our farmers now, well in time as to what crops they should take. Otherwise, if they take oil seeds it will fail, if they take cash crops it will fail. Kindly advise the farmers what should be cropping pattern be, what is the weather condition going to be. Kindly ask our meteorologists, scientists, ICAR people to advise the farmers so that this year there will be no more cases of suicide. Sir, my last request, through you, to the Government of India is, that in Andhra Pradesh more than 500 people have committed suicide. In Maharashtra, 51 people have committed suicide up till now. In Karnataka, 29 people have committed suicide. So this is not a normal phenomenon. It is an extraordinary phenomenon. So the Government of India must now intervene and come to the rescue of the farmers, take some preventive measures, ask the banks and financial institutions to stop coercive recoveries, create a psychological atmosphere in favour of the farmers and see that these suicides are prevented particularly in the coming year.

Thank you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. We will take it up as a Calling Attention next week. You can discuss it then.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, the people from Karnataka are also watching it. If you permit me,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Only one minute then.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Sir, the Government of India has taken the stand that the Calamity Relief Fund is available with the State Governments and that should use this money. I am sorry to say that the Calamity Relief Fund is different and this is a different situation. This is about the demand of farmers. Already 29 farmers have lost their lives in Karnatka. A team has gone there. No relief has reached them so far. The Government doesn't come out to say that it has given so much of money. The Calamity Relief Fund that is available with them is for a different purpose. They have now changed the norms also. The Minister answers here that the Calamity Relief Fund can be used. A number of teams have gone there but the farmers haven't got anything. Their Government hasn't come out with a specific programme to meet this situation so far. I want the Agriculture

Minister to react on this and tell us what specific programmes the Government has...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Ministers do not reply to Special Mentions. If the hon. Member wants to raise this issue...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHIR SOM PAL): Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. I am going to admit a Calling Attention in the next week so that detailed anwers can come

SHRI SOM PAL: Sir, what I was going to say...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Once you start you will have to react to others also. I don't want that you should be partial.

We will take it up in the next week.

Scarcity of Drinking water and power in Different Parts of the Country

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, ever since we came here for the Session, we have been receiving telephone calls from residents of different parts of Delhi. Rather than calling it a shortage, they have been trying to find out when they will get the normal supply of water and electricity. It is a fact that they are getting power and water more as an exception than the rule. Added to this problem are the funny statements that we are hearing everyday in Delhi from very important people who are just advising the residents to stay in one room, go to their offices on bicycles and so on and so forth. Now, throughout these last two days, Thursday and Friday, we were charged on this issue of nuclear power and nuclear blasts. We understand that the Government has a certain priority and we also concede that it is an important priority. But at the same time, what we would like to tell the Government unambiguously is that it cannot play with fire. You should explain to us. There should be a statement in this House as to why the entire power system and the entire water supply system in Delhi has collapsed. This is something on which the man-in-the-street is really agitated. Without making any funny statements, tell us why the Northern Grid has totally come to a standstill. The Power Minister goes to different parts of the country and gives big lectures. But what kind of monitoring is there of the power plants? What is the level of generation? What is the PLF? Why is the entire North India reeling under this heat wave? The entire North India is being totally denied of electricity supply. Then, what about the water supply system? Why are the people not getting water? We understand that the Government is concerned about national security. But these are the basic amenities of the people. Why is there no response? Why isn't there a *suo motu* statement by the Government?

So, Mr. Chairman, Sir, we charge that this Government is insensitive to the needs of the poeple and the horrible conditions to which people have been subjected—what to talk of other parts of the country, what to talk of the backward areas of the country. Now, if that is the situation, will the Government be kind enough to come in the House with a full-fledged statement delineating the reasons, the severity of the crisis and also delineating the reasons as to why this is so and why the Government has failed to respond to this kind of a critical situation.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, may I make a request? This is such a serious matter that I don't thing merely making a Special Mention is going to help us at all. I request you to kindly fix up a time for some kind of a discussion, as things are going from bad to worse and nobody seems to be bothering about it. After all, Members will receive replies of these Special Mention after one month or two months. We should not allow that kind of a situation to happen. Kindly fix up a time and we will discuss this matter in the House, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members feel that this may be turned into a Short Duration Discussion, then we can do it. So, the Members need not ask for making Special Mentions today. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, my name is already there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me tell you ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, I will respond as Minister of...

MR CHAIRMAN: No, no. Not just now. ...*(Interruptions)*...